

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DETECTION OF APO A, APO B AND THE RATIO THEREOF IN SALIVA

Abstract of the Invention

A method has been developed to detect the levels of apolipoproteins A-1 and B in saliva, which is correlated with the levels of HDL and LDL in serum, respectively. In unstimulated saliva, the ratio of Apo A to Apo B is correlated with the ratio of HDL to LDL in serum. Albumin can be used to normalize the sample for dilution. The high degree of correlation in combination with a simple, quick test that can be performed at the site of collection provides a cost effective, patient friendly means to monitor an individual's risk of heart disease. In the preferred embodiment, saliva production is stimulated by means such as breath mint or tart solution (such as lemon) and the effect of dilution controlled by reference to albumin. In the most preferred embodiment, the assay is an ELISA assay performed using the Serex laminated strip format as described in U.S. patent Nos. 5,710,009, 5,500,375, and 5,451,504. These strips are advantageous since they serve as the collection and assay device.